

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 52 of 1880.

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th December 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	BENGALI.			
	Monthly.			
1	"Bhárat Shramajíví"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly	175	
	Fortnightly.			
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
5	"Rajshahye Samvád"	Rajshahye	31	14th December 1880.
	Weekly.			
6	"Ananda Bazar Patriká"	Calcutta	700	13th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	24th ditto.
8	"Bhárat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	14th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwán Sanjívaní"	Bardwán	296	
11	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca	350	19th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	17th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Beauleah, Rájsháhye	200	15th ditto.
14	"Murshidábád Patriká"	Berhampore	487	10th ditto.
15	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
16	"Navavibhákar"	Calcutta	850	
17	"Pratikár"	Berhampore	275	10th ditto.
18	"Rangpore Dik Prakásh"	Kákiniá, Rangpore	250	16th ditto.
19	"Sádháraní"	Chinsurah	500	
20	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	13th ditto.
21	"Som Prakásh"	Changripottá, 24-Perghs.	.....	20th ditto.
22	"Sulabha Samáchár"	Calcutta	4,000	18th ditto.
23	"Sríhatta Prakásh"	Sylhet	440	13th ditto.
24	"Tripurá Vártávaha"	Connillah	.....	18th ditto.
	Daily.			
25	"Samvád Prabhákar"	Calcutta	700	15th and 16th December 1880.
26	"Samvád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	20th to 23rd ditto.
27	"Samáchár Chandriká"	Ditto	625	
28	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Ditto	500	20th and 21st ditto.
29	"Prabhátí"	Ditto	.....	18th to 22nd ditto.
	ENGLISH AND URDU.			
	Weekly.			
30	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	18th December 1880.
	HINDI.			
	Weekly.			
31	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	16th ditto.
32	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	16th ditto.
33	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto	200	13th ditto.
34	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto	.....	18th ditto.
	PERSIAN.			
	Weekly.			
35	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Ditto	250	
	URDU.			
	Weekly.			
36	"Tijarut-ul-Akhbár"	Ditto	.....
	ASSAMESE.			
	Monthly.			
37	"Assam Vilásiní"	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

PRATIKAR,
December 10th, 1880.

Lord Northbrook's Birmingham speech. **Lord Northbrook's recent speech at Birmingham.** Of all the Governors-General who came successively after Lord Canning down to the time of Lord Lytton, Lord Northbrook was the best. He was an able ruler and clever statesman. Of his perfect independence it is needless to speak. He, as well as the other leaders of the Liberal party, who are constantly labouring to interest the people of England in Indian affairs, are entitled to the gratitude of the natives of this country. The other observations of the writer are similar to those noticed in paragraph 1 of our Report of the 11th instant.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
December 13th, 1880.

2. The Srihatta Prakash, of the 13th December, remarks that the astuteness shewn by the British Government in conferring empty titles of distinction on Native Chiefs and gentlemen of position really extorts admiration. Formerly the practice was for the Sovereign to confer a title, and at the same time grant a jaygir or money reward to the person favoured. What is the good of empty titles ?

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

PRATIKAR,
December 10th, 1880.

Sir Ashley Eden and the Calcutta Wards' Institution. **3. The Pratikar,** of the 10th December, is exceedingly gratified at finding that the attention of Sir Ashley Eden has recently been directed to the management of the Calcutta Wards' Institution, a subject which ought long before this to have come under his consideration. It is greatly to be regretted that, although the Institution has for a long time past had the benefit of the supervision of such a scholar as Dr. Rajendralal Mitra, still the results have not justified public expectations. Most of the wards, on attaining their majority, have led reckless lives. For all this, the people have lost all confidence in the efficiency of the education received in the Institution. The writer does not mean any reflection on Dr. Rajendralal Mitra's ability, for it is not to be believed that an intelligent, learned and experienced man like him could ever be guilty of a neglect of duty; but the reason why the state of the Calcutta Wards' Institution is daily becoming increasingly deplorable is not at all intelligible. The Editor then proceeds to give the substance of the recommendations of the Committee which was appointed to report on the affairs of the Institution, and of the observations made by the Lieutenant-Governor on this subject. His Honor has rightly observed that now, when good schools abound in the mofussil, where the wards might receive education, there does not appear to be any necessity for continuing the present Institution at Calcutta.

SAHACHAR,
December 13th, 1880.

4. The following observations are extracted from an editorial in the Sahachar of the 13th December :—It is

The Press Commissioner. rumoured that the Government of India will abolish the office of Press Commissioner. The London papers are almost unanimous in advocating this course; and this is no wonder, considering how unpopular the Vernacular Press Act has become in England. Mr. Gladstone's speeches in Parliament and in Midlothian have convinced the British public that the measure is wholly unworthy of the nation, and they may properly ask what it is that after a century and a half of British rule in India, during which period the people have always been contented, has rendered a Gagging Act indispensably necessary. The British nation is perfectly aware that it is only where the administration is bad that laws for curtailing the liberties of a people become necessary; and the ruler, who curtails these liberties, thereby gives a practical

proof of the fact that he is a bad ruler. The mischievous pranks of Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey notwithstanding, the people of India continue to be partial to British rule. The discontent which, it was believed by Lord Lytton, prevails in India, does not really exist. It is for this that the British nation is about to repeal the Vernacular Press Act. The nation would be ashamed to own before Europe that India was dissatisfied. What wonder that English newspapers should look upon the Press Commissioner in the same light as they regard the Censor of the Press in Europe, seeing that the Press Commissionership was established after the passing of the Vernacular Press Act? Even the *Sahachar* was at first of opinion that, in creating the office, Lord Lytton was but seeking to introduce into India the Russian institution of the Censor of the Press. Fortunately both Mr. Lethbridge and Mr. Buckland have performed the duties of the office in a manner which has secured for them the esteem of the Press. The Press Commissioner has impartially supplied all newspapers with official information, and the vernacular papers have benefited the most by his services. The latter are too poor to be able to engage the services of correspondents to supply them with news. This, as well as reports and other official papers, they have obtained from the Press Commissioner, and utilized in the course of discussing public measures. Native papers have in consequence greatly improved in their tone and character, and have almost given up writing on mere conjecture. This is the true explanation of the improvement which has been lately observable in the writings of the Native Press, and which is erroneously attributed by Sir Ashley Eden to the existence of the Vernacular Press Act. The Editor expresses a hope that the Press Commissionership will not be abolished merely in deference to the wishes of Sir. John Strachey.

5. The same paper is strongly of opinion that a system of national education is the true foundation of national

Lord Ripon's educational policy.

progress, and that the study and cultivation

of the vernaculars constitutes an important part of that education. It is for this that the Editor believes that in India improvement of the vernaculars has become essentially necessary at the present time ; but as this is impossible without the spread of high English education, both should go hand-in-hand. It is gratifying to note that this fact is recognized in Lord Ripon's educational policy, as indicated in his reply to the recent deputation of the Punjab University College.

6. The same paper resumes its comments on the draft Rent Bill.

The draft Rent Bill.

The definitions of "undertenure-holder," "holding," "occupancy holding," "under-

tenant," "rent," and "land" as given in the Bill are unobjectionable. The Commissioners have done well in including fisheries and the like under the term "land," for there is no reason why occupancy rights should not accrue in reference to fisheries. The definition of *bastu* or homestead land is not complete. If the ryot had erected a masonry house on the land, and was subsequently evicted from his holding, it would be very hard to oust him from his homestead. On this point the decisions of the High Court are not marked by any consistency. There can be no objection to section 6, and the example given is quite appropriate. Sections 8, 9, and 10 will benefit both landlords and tenants. A doubt is expressed whether the word tenure in section 8 includes *gantis*. Section 10 is exceedingly necessary ; sections 11 and 12 have evoked much discussion. They have been framed in the interests of the community, and in deference to custom and the requirements of progress, and the Editor recognizes their necessity. It is, however, desirable that the 100 bighas specified in the Bill should form one entire plot of land, and not be made up of separate slices. In

SAHACHAR,
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SAHACHAR.

the latter case, the right proposed should not be conferred upon the tenant.

SAHACHAR,
December 18th, 1880.

7. The same paper notices with gratification that, in recognition of

successful work done as head-master of the Arrah zilla school, the Lieutenant-Governor has presented a valuable gold watch to Babu

Certain acts of the Lieutenant-Governor.
Uma Charan Das on his recent appointment as Superintendent of Education in the Cooch Behar State. The Babu has fully earned the reward by his able and faithful services, and Sir Ashley Eden is entitled to the gratitude of the public for this graceful and just act. The writer takes the occasion to commend His Honor's action in the case of Mr. Campbell, Judge of Backergunge.

SAHACHAR.

8. Nepal Ghazi, in the columns of the same paper, describes in Durbars, tours, and the Patriotic Fund.

Mussulmani Bengali the farcical character of the durbars which are held by the British Government, and the ludicrous spectacle afforded by the Native Princes present at them. These Chiefs are, as it were, led by the nose in the train of the Viceroy. The subject of gubernatorial tours is then dwelt upon in a satirical spirit. In anticipation of a visit from the Governor-General or the Lieutenant-Governor, Magistrates may be seen busy collecting subscriptions for a dinner, ball and illumination. Houses are white-washed and roads watered. All active work is suspended. The Governor comes and inspects the jail, where the convicts have been previously warned against making any complaints on pain of being yoked to the oil-machine. Feasting and speechifying follow. There is only a waste of money and show. In ancient times the Rajahs used to travel *incognito* and observe how things were going on among the people. That was the proper course. The present practice is all show and mockery. Sir Ashley Eden, however, has done a good act by effecting a reconciliation between the Maharajah of Durbhunga and his brother on the occasion of a recent tour. The Patriotic Fund is then referred to. Raising subscriptions in aid of this Fund is but another and a milder form of taxation. Let those who brought about the Cabul War—Lord Lytton, Sir John Strachey and others—be asked to assist the widows and orphans of those who perished in the war.

SAHACHAR.

The Court of Wards, and the estate of the late Baboo Annadá Prasád Ráya of Cossimbazar.

9. A correspondent of the same paper writes a long letter regarding the present management of the estate of the late Babu Annadá Prasád Ráya of Cossimbazar.

In spite of the clear decision of the District Judge, the Collector, and at his instance the Commissioner and the Board of Revenue have preferred an appeal to the High Court for setting aside the will of the deceased and making over the estate to the management of the Court of Wards. The widow of the late Babu is strongly opposed to this. In the meantime, Government has appointed a Deputy Magistrate as manager of the estate and allowed him an establishment. The arrangement will cost the estate over Rs. 16,000 a year. This is indeed, the writer ironically remarks, an economical management; and the efficient and inexpensive plan made for the management of the estate in the will has been set aside in its favour. During the short time which has elapsed since the death of Babu Annadá Prasád, there have come, one after another, two managers. The first, Navin Babu, possessed a short-lived authority, but during his term of office he did much to pain the hearts of the relatives of the deceased. Even the toys and the wearing apparel of the minor son of Annadá Babu were taken away from him. The most trusted servants of the estate were dismissed, while those that had been dismissed for grave offences were reinstated in their posts. Bagalananda Babu has succeeded Navin Babu as manager, and the friends of the deceased are afraid that the Gangulis, who were dismissed from the service of the estate, will,

by reason of their relationship with the present manager, succeed in gradually re-entering it. Already one of them has been appointed manager of Annadá Babu's zemindary in Rungpore. The estate has lost considerably during the short time it has been under the management of the Court of Wards. A valuable putnee interest in Tipperah belonging to the late Babu was lately sold at auction. The writer, in conclusion, asks the present manager to attend to larger interests, instead of seeking to effect small savings of two or four rupees.

10. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 13th December, contains
The Calcutta Wards' Institution. an article on the Calcutta Wards' Institution,
and Sir Ashley Eden's proposal to abolish it.

**ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,**
December 13th, 1880.

That the Institution has not been successful, that the pupils have contracted immoral habits, is entirely due to the perfunctory manner in which Dr. Rajendralal Mitra, the Superintendent, has performed his duties. The Editor plainly charges the Doctor with a neglect of duty, and asks that, since such is the case, Sir Ashley Eden should not abolish the institution, but place it under more conscientious management. It would in that case be the means of imparting both moral and intellectual education to the minor sons of landholders who might attend it. This congregation of the future leaders of native society would prove exceedingly beneficial. They would thus learn betimes to act in concert. But it is quite possible that Sir Ashley Eden, who is extremely fond of authority, and does not like independence in native landlords, would not for that very reason desire to continue the Institution.

11. The same paper remarks, in reference to the proposal to abolish
The Press Commissioner. the office of Press Commissioner, that if
Lord Ripon really desires to be popular, both here and in England, let him repeal the Vernacular Press Act. What is the good of threatening the Press Commissionership?

**ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.**

12. The *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 14th December, protests strongly
A fresh survey of the lands in Chittagong. against the proposal recently sanctioned by Government for making a fresh survey of the lands in the Chittagong district. The inhabitants are extremely opposed to the idea of a new survey. They have had bitter experience of the Noabad settlements, which have enriched many and beggared more. The idea of a survey is connected in their minds with that of a host of venal and extortionate amens let loose upon the helpless inhabitants. In the present case they had no notice given them that the Commissioner was going to report to Government in favour of making a fresh survey. Even when asked by the Editor of this paper for a copy of the report, he refused to grant his prayer.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
December 14th, 1880.

13. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 14th December, remarks that Sir Ashley
The Excise Department. Eden, it would seem, is exulting over the improvement that has taken place in the excise revenue. The feeling, however, is not certainly becoming in a ruler, for this improvement is a sure indication that the people are being ruined. The introduction of the outstill system has cheapened liquor, and thus caused an increase of drunkenness in Bengal. This is the belief of every unprejudiced mind; the District Collectors, of course, may write what they please in their efforts to defend the policy of Government in this matter. Sir Ashley Eden contends that the liquor manufactured at the outstills is neither so strong nor so injurious as that which used to be prepared at the Sudder distilleries. His Honor has here fallen into an error. How does he know that the former kind of liquor does not contain any deleterious substances? And again, even assuming that drunkenness has not increased, is not the fact that the habit of drinking is spreading over an increasing area sufficient

BHÁRAT MIHIR,
December 14th, 1880.

to cause alarm? It is really to be regretted that His Honor has been obliged to have recourse to such plausible arguments as that an increase of excise revenue is a proof of the growing prosperity of the people. Liquor has been cheapened, made less strong, and placed within the reach of an impoverished people. After thus completely leading them into temptation, and inducing them to spend their money in drinking, Government appeals to the fact as a proof of their prosperity.

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 14th, 1880.

14. The same paper remarks that the people would have but few grounds of complaint had the assessors under the License-tax Act done their work with

anything like care. It is not easy to determine the earnings of a person; but the assessors have done this in a most off-hand manner. That the tax has produced dissatisfaction is entirely due to them. There is another remark to be made in this connection. Not a few assessors have made over-assessments in their eagerness to obtain the approbation of Government, which is received by everybody who can show large collections.

BHARAT MIHIR.

Draft Rent Bill.

Landholders' meeting at Mymensingh.

15. The same paper publishes an abstract of the proceedings of a meeting of landholders lately held at Mymensingh for the purpose of considering the provisions of the draft Rent Bill. Resolutions were moved and adopted for protesting against

certain portions of the measure.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
December 17th, 1880.

16. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 17th December, notices a fearful outbreak of malarious fever in Joyrampore and adjacent villages in the Nuddea district, and asks Government to send medical aid without delay.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
December 18th, 1880.

17. The *Sulaba Samáchár*, of the 18th December, points out the necessity of curtailing the length of the winter vacation in the schools and colleges in Bengal. The Durga Puja and the summer vacations are really necessary, but not so the long recess in the cold season, which is the proper time of the year for mental labour.

SULABHA SAMACHAR.

Insubordination and immorality among the pupils. 18. The same paper deplores the spirit of insubordination to the teachers and professors which at present characterizes most of the pupils in the schools and colleges. The teachers are in many cases afraid of incurring their displeasure. There are a few pupils older than the rest in almost every school, who are the most ill-behaved; and it is they who set a bad example to the younger ones. Instances are not unknown of some of these lads bringing to school phials full of liquor, which they take under colour of medicine. Smoking prevails to an alarming extent. What is required to check the evil is the enforcement of stern discipline, and this is precisely what is not done. The attention of the Educational authorities is directed to the subject.

TRIPURA VARTAVAHÁ,
December 18th, 1880.

19. The *Tripurá Vártávahá*, of the 18th December, expresses himself in favour of continuing the office of Press Commissioner. The arguments adduced in support of this view have been noticed in previous reports.

TRIPURA VARTAVAHÁ,

20. A correspondent of the same paper points out the inconvenience which is occasioned by the money-order forms being wholly in the English language. There are many in the mofussil who do not know English, and yet frequently find it necessary to make remittances by means of money-orders. It is therefore desirable that there should be a Bengali translation given in the forms.

DACCA PRAKASH,
December 19th, 1880.

21. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 19th December, publishes an abstract of the proceedings of a meeting of the land-holders of eastern Bengal recently held at

Draft Rent Bill meeting at Dacca.

Dacca for protesting against the provisions of the draft Rent Bill. The meeting was influentially and numerously attended.

22. The same paper commends the Lieutenant-Governor's action in Mr. Campbell, the Judge of Burrisal. the case of Mr. Campbell, Judge of Backer-gunge, who grossly insulted a Brahmin constable.

23. The same paper remarks that, ever since the passing of Act X of The draft Rent Bill. 1859, Government has been secretly endeavouring to confer favours on the tenants at the expense of the landlords. The present draft Rent Bill is an attempt in this direction. The inclusion of fisheries under the definition of land, and the explanation of *bastu* lands as given in the Bill, are proofs of this.

24. The *Som Prakash*, of the 20th December, contains an article Dr. Hunter on India. headed "Dr. Hunter on the poverty of India." The Editor is glad to notice that Dr. Hunter has really done an important service to this country by his efforts to open the eyes of the British public to the poverty of India. It is the erroneous notion that India abounds in wealth that has been the cause of much of her misfortunes and made her the prey of successive invaders. Even now, under British rule, this false notion continues to work mischief. That the machinery of the administration is so expensive, and the people so saddled with taxes, is solely due to this fact. Of the public questions which now demand the attention of the Native Associations, the foremost place should be assigned to this subject of the costliness of the present administration. There should be a persistent agitation for demanding a reduction of public expenditure.

DACCA PRAKASH,
December 10th, 1880.

DACCA PRAKASH.

SOM PRAKASH,
December 20th, 1880.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
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BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 25th December 1880.